

A B S T R A C T

Provided is a method for the preparation of desflurane wherein isoflurane is reacted with 0.7-1.2 mol.% of antimony pentachloride and 1.3-2.2 molar equivalents of hydrogen fluoride. Typically, the method is conducted by addition of hydrogen fluoride to a mixture of isoflurane and antimony pentachloride. After the addition of hydrogen fluoride is completed, the reaction is preferably maintained at temperatures of about 9-18 °C for about 6 to 7 hours, before being quenched.